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MEDIA ALERT

State Consumer Group Challenges Rocky Mountain Power's New \$160M Rate Increase Request

"Committee of Consumer Services announces its intent to file an objection with the Utah Public Service Commission."

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – The Committee of Consumer Services (CCS) announced today it will challenge Rocky Mountain Power's filing for another rate increase of \$160M, which would result in an increase to consumer's monthly bills of approximately 11%. Rocky Mountain Power filed this request earlier today with the Public Service Commission (PSC), which is less than seven months after making a similar rate increase request that is still in litigation and has not been ruled upon by the PSC. While Rocky Mountain Power indicates it will reduce its new request by whatever increase it is granted in the current case, the Committee of Consumer Services asserts that these tactics are unfair and improper.

"People are already struggling with the impact of rising energy costs and we feel that Rocky Mountain Power's misuse of the system makes it even more difficult to protect consumers," said Michele Beck, Director of the Committee of Consumer Services.

The Committee's policy is to support appropriate utility investments that ensure reliable service and recognizes that prudently incurred costs will be passed on to consumers. However, the Committee believes that established processes for reviewing these costs should be respected. In this case, Rocky Mountain Power is asking the PSC to do a second review of costs associated with a time period before the PSC is finished with the first review. This approach is contrary to good public policy in which a utility would incorporate the outcome from one case into their next case. To pursue overlapping rate increase requests is an abuse of the system and waste of public resources.

About the Committee of Consumer Services

The Committee of Consumer Services is Utah's utility consumer advocate, representing residential, small commercial and agricultural consumers of natural gas, electric and telephone service before the Utah Public Service Commission. More information about the Committee of Consumer Services is available by logging on www.ccs.utah.gov

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